

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 20-1985V

UNPUBLISHED

MARIA MENDEZ,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: February 6, 2023

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder
Injury Related to Vaccine
Administration (SIRVA)

Ronald Craig Homer, Conway, Homer, P.C., Boston, MA, for Petitioner.

Andrew Henning, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On December 28, 2020, Maria Mendez filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine that was administered to her on January 4, 2019. Amended Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On November 23, 2022, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation. On February 6, 2023, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded a total of \$85,185.48, consisting of \$85,000.00 in pain and suffering and \$185.48 in out-of-pocket expenses. Proffer at 1-2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the

¹ Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$85,185.48, (consisting of \$85,000.00 in pain and suffering and \$185.48 in out-of-pocket expenses) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran
Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

MARIA MENDEZ,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 20-1985V (ECF)
Chief Special Master Corcoran
SPU

RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On November 30, 2022, respondent conceded that entitlement to compensation was appropriate under the terms of the Vaccine Act. ECF No. 35. On November 30, 2022, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued a Ruling on Entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for his SIRVA. ECF No. 36.

I. Items of Compensation

A. Pain and Suffering and Out-of-Pocket Expenses

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded **\$85,000.00** in pain and suffering and **\$185.48** in out-of-pocket expenses. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

These amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).¹ Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through

¹ Should petitioner die prior to the entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering.

a lump sum payment of **\$85,185.48**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. Petitioner agrees.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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